



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-------------------------|-------------|-----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/508,923 | 06/19/2000 | NORMAN BRYSON ROBERTS | PM266300 | 3694 |
| 909 | 7590 | 06/02/2004 | EXAMINER | |
| PILLSBURY WINTHROP, LLP | | | LANGEL, WAYNE A | |
| P.O. BOX 10500 | | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
| MCLEAN, VA 22102 | | | 1754 | |

DATE MAILED: 06/02/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Patent and Trademark Office

Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231

SERIAL NUMBER FILING DATE FIRST NAMED INVENTOR ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.

09508923

EXAMINER

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

38

DATE MAILED:

This is a communication from the examiner in charge of your application.
COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS

This application has been examined Responsive to communication filed on 4-27-04 This action is made final.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 month(s), days from the date of this letter.
Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. 35 U.S.C. 133

Part I THE FOLLOWING ATTACHMENT(S) ARE PART OF THIS ACTION:

1. Notice of References Cited by Examiner, PTO-892.
2. Notice of Draftsman's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.
3. Notice of Art Cited by Applicant, PTO-1449.
4. Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152.
5. Information on How to Effect Drawing Changes, PTO-1474..
6. _____

Part II SUMMARY OF ACTION

1. Claims 15, 19, 20 and 26-32 are pending in the application.

Of the above, claims _____ are withdrawn from consideration.

2. Claims _____ have been cancelled.

3. Claims 20 and 27-32 are allowed.

4. Claims 15, 19 and 26 are rejected.

5. Claims _____ are objected to.

6. Claims _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

7. This application has been filed with informal drawings under 37 C.F.R. 1.85 which are acceptable for examination purposes.

8. Formal drawings are required in response to this Office action.

9. The corrected or substitute drawings have been received on _____. Under 37 C.F.R. 1.84 these drawings are acceptable; not acceptable (see explanation or Notice of Draftsman's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948).

10. The proposed additional or substitute sheet(s) of drawings, filed on _____, has (have) been approved by the examiner; disapproved by the examiner (see explanation).

11. The proposed drawing correction, filed _____, has been approved; disapproved (see explanation).

12. Acknowledgement is made of the claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. 119. The certified copy has been received not been received been filed in parent application, serial no. _____; filed on _____.

13. Since this application appears to be in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

14. Other

EXAMINER'S ACTION

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 15, 19 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Zhang et al (the article entitled "Synthesis of Mg/Fe Pyroaurite-like Compounds and Their Anion-Exchange Characteristics") or Zhang et al (the article entitled " Phosphorus Anion-Exzachange Characteristics of a Pyroaurite-Like Compound") or Hansen et al ("Synthesis and characterization of pyroaurite"). No distinction is seen between the compounds disclosed by Hansen et al and either of the Zhang et al articles, and that recited in claims 15, 19 and 26. It would be expected that the compound disclosed by Hansen et al and either of the Zhang et al articles would have properties identical to the compounds recited in claims 15, 19 and 26, since the compounds of the articles include the hydroxyl and carbonate radicals, as well as magnesium and iron. (See the Abstract of each article.) It is noted that the compounds of both Zhang et al articles also include the chloride anion. .

Claims 20 and 27-32 are allowed.

Application/Control Number: 09/508,923
Art Unit: 1754

Page 3

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Wayne Langel at telephone number 571-272-1353.

Wayne A. Langel
Wayne Langel
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1754